

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended; claims 4-20 have been cancelled; and claims 21-26 have been added. Support for new claims 21-26 can be found, for example, at the following places in the instant specification: page 15, lines 14-33. The claims do not introduce any new matter.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-20 stand provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-20 of copending Application No. 10/624,095. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 and have cancelled Claims 4-20. It is respectfully contended that the amendments have obviated the outstanding rejection.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the present application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 3, 2004

By: Jeffrey A. McKinney

Jeffrey A. McKinney
Registration No. 43,795

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(650) 622-2300